(c) if so, whether they have suggested that India and Pakistan should think of jointly developing a major hydro-electric project in Jammu and Kashmir and should take up major dam projects in a big way; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to implement suggestions made by World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Mr. John Briscoe of the World Bank has recently prepared a draft Report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future". The report also includes suggestions for prioritized, sequenced and pragmatic path to deal with issues concerning availability and usage of scarce water resources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No Sir. In the report there is no specific mention about development of major projects jointly by India and Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) Most of the issues are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate actions are taken in light of the present policies of the Union and the State Governments.

Water disputes with neighbouring countries

†2258. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the river water disputes between India and its neighbouring countries are continuing for the last several years;

(b) if so, the names of the countries which are the parties of the said disputes with India;

(c) the names of the rivers in dispute with each of the countries; and

(d) the number of discussions held with each of the said countries on the said disputes so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) There are no

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

river water disputes between India and its neighbouring countries China, Bhutan, Nepal and Banglandesh pertaining to the rivers common to India and these countries. Points of difference raised by Pakistan on the design of Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant on river Chenab in J & K are under Expert Determination by a Neutral Expert from Switzerland appointed by the World Bank. The Neutral Expert has so far held two meetings as well as a wrap up meeting at the conclusion of his site visit in India. Various issues related to the common rivers of the neighbouring countries are however discussed in various joint meetings from time to time.

Completion of Sutlej Canal

†2259. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in construction work of Sutlej canal in accordance with the directions given in Supreme Court in this regard;

(b) the time likely to be taken for its completion; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take regarding the losses and the problems being faced by farmers of Haryana due to non-distribution of water from Sutlej canal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The question presumably refers to the Sutlej Yammuna Link (SYL) Canal. Pursuant to a Judgement & Order dated 04.06.2004 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court directing Union of India to carry out its action plan for completion of the SYL Canal in Punjab territory, a Central Agency was nominated to undertake the canal works. An Empowered/High Powered Committee was also set up to coordinate and facilitate early implementation of the decree mentioned in the Judgement & Order dated 04.06.2004. However, the State of Punjab enacted the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 terminating all the agreements related to Ravi-Beas waters. When Central Government was informed that any step taken in furtherance of the agreement of 31.12.1981 would be against the legislative mandate of the Act, a Presidential Reference regarding the said Act has been made, outcome of which is awaited.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.